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consolation and our hope, that a people, through the force of its energy, may climb again the slope of decadence ; and that nothing can aid it more than an authority which is strong and respected, passionately devoted to the public interest, imposing respect upon individual interests, opening new avenues for national activity, stimulating its hesitations, and sustaining its weaknesses."

It remains to say that Sully drops into an unwonted unimportance in this study ; that the author shows manufactures and commerce, as compared with agriculture, to have obtained a much greater attention than is generally taught ; and, finally, that the position of France in Europe is stated with a modesty quite unusual for a French author. The book has a good analytical index. In fact, our principal criticism, and that is perhaps a somewhat impertinent one, is that the size of the book, its weight, its broad margins, and luxuriousness of paper and print seem somewhat disproportioned to the plain subject and style of the work.

EDWARD P. CHEYNEY.

Beiträge zur Geschichte der politischen Ideen und der Regierungspraxis. Von GOTTFRIED KOCH. I. Absolutismus und Parlamentarismus ; II. Demokratie und Constitution. (Berlin : R. Gärtners. 1892, 1896. Two vols., pp. viii, 184 ; viii, 242.)

THE work before us, so far as yet published, deals only with England and France and covers the period between the reign of Louis XIV. and the beginning of the French Revolution. The book is a history not only of political ideas but also of political institutions, including under the latter term administrative machinery and practice. The author's plan includes not only political theories, but also the political facts of which they are the reflection or against which they are a protest. The first two chapters, dealing with the period of Louis XIV., may serve as a sample of the author's method. The first chapter, thirteen pages in length, is an examination of the theory of the absolute monarchy as it is laid down in contemporary writers, foremost among them Bossuet. Then follows a chapter forty pages long, entitled " Art der Regierung Louis XIV." The topics treated of in this chapter embrace the central government, including the several councils of the crown, the organization of provinces, districts and municipalities, judicial administration, police and taxation. Among the topics named some are treated in considerable detail. Under the head of justice, for example, not only are the parliaments described, but an account is also given of courts of inferior jurisdiction. It is evident that the treatment of these topics within such narrow compass must necessarily be very brief, so much so indeed as sometimes to raise the question whether there ought not to be either more or nothing. It is to be said, however, on the other hand that the information is accurate and that its presentation in this form will be a great convenience, especially to those who are limited either in time or in sources of information. Indeed the author has read widely and to the point, so that his pages often contain information which otherwise it would not be easy to find.

Keeping in mind the subordinate title of Part I., *Absolutismus und Parlamentarismus*, we understand why the author, after having dealt with absolute monarchy in France, turns to England to study the beginnings of parliamentary government. To this subject two chapters are devoted, one giving an account of the struggle between the Stuart kings and Parliament, the other dealing with the same struggle in the realm of political theory. From England the author again turns to France to make in the two following chapters a study of the incipient reaction against absolute monarchy as seen in the writers of the period and in the political struggles of the Regency. Characteristic is the detailed account of the struggle between the Regent and the Parliament of Paris and of Law's financial scheme. The remaining four chapters of the first part deal with England under Walpole and France under Fleury, an extended account being given of the political philosophy of Bolingbroke and of Montesquieu.

The first three chapters of the second part deal with France under Louis XV., the first describing the struggles between him and the parliaments, the second expounding the constitution of France according to the view of the parliaments, and the third treating of Rousseau as the founder of democracy. It will be seen that the author is true to his method of studying political ideas in connection with the soil in which they germinate. The five following chapters are given to England and its American colonies, the study of the democratic transformation which English institutions had undergone in the new world preparing the way for the three closing chapters dealing with France under Louis XVI., political ideas in France before the Revolution and the Constitution of 1791. A third part, now in preparation, is to trace the constitutional development of England and France down to 1848, while in a fourth part the author proposes to deal with Germany as he has already dealt with England and France, and to bring the constitutional development of the three countries down to the present day.

The book before us has sterling merit. It is painstaking and thorough, and its pages are packed with information. The method of studying political theories together with the political situation in which they are developed and the political facts for which they stand is attractive. The plan makes it necessary that a large number of subjects should be treated in brief space, but subject to this limitation the author has given us a useful book.

RICHARD HUDSON.

Histoire Générale du IV^e Siècle à nos Jours. Publiée sous la direction de MM. ERNEST LAVISSE et ALFRED RAMBAUD. Tome VIII. La Révolution Française (1789-1799). (Paris: Armand Colin et Cie. 1896. Pp. 992.)

Études et Leçons sur la Révolution Française. Par F. A. AULARD. Seconde Série. (Paris: Félix Alcan. 1898. Pp. 308.)

M. F. A. AULARD is incontestably the greatest living authority upon the history of the French Revolution. He has done more than any